

News



**Desert artillery rules...**  
1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery dominates Iraqi battlefield against insurgents. See story on Page 5A.

Black History Month

Ft. Stewart will celebrate Black History Month with guest speaker Juvenile Court judge, Judge Linnie L. Darden II, today beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Ft. Stewart Education Center.

Post Update

Fort Stewart Garrison Commander, Col. John Kidd, is hosting a two and a half day Sustainability Summit this week.  
The summit brings together installation partners to develop short and long-term goals to sustain Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield into the future, for the next 25 to 50 years.

Dept. of the Army officials, local community leaders, regulatory agency representatives, congressional staffers, and stakeholders from around Ft. Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Georgia gathered at Club Stewart Tuesday to talk about the delicate balance between environmental impacts, and how to conserve the vast natural and physical resources here so the Army can have this important training and power projection platform well into the future.  
Tuesday ended with an afternoon site tour which included Borrow Pit Management, and the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, and how forestry management experts use periodic prescribed burns to thin forest ground cover keeping it open for military training and minimizing the threat of wildfires. Tour participants also saw samples of how the installation controls erosion, wetlands management, and low-water crossings built to allow the heavy, mechanized equipment of the 3rd Infantry Division adequate passage between training areas.

# 110th Soldiers help save life of contractor

**Spec. Brian Schroeder**  
*10th Mountain Div. Public Affairs*

**CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad** — Imagine driving to work on a busy highway, just like any other day. The bumper-to-bumper traffic is just as frustrating as trying to find a good song on the radio. You look up and see the traffic clearing ahead of you. Then, all of a sudden, the vehicle in front of you drifts off the road and rolls into a ditch. Would you stop and help the person trapped inside the car or would you keep driving?

Pfc. Joshua Kesner and Spec. Ryan McClung, Company D, 110th Military Intelligence Battalion, were faced with a similar situation Jan. 9. The decision they made that day saved one man's life.

Kesner, a Newcastle, Pa., native, and McClung, from Packersburgh, W.V., were driving a humvee down a narrow dirt road that runs parallel to a canal, toward the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters building. Kesner said he noticed the tires of a truck in front of them slipping off the road.

**See Saved** ————— **14A**



**Spec. Ryan McClung (left) and Pfc. Joshua Kesner, Company D, 110th Military Intelligence Battalion, saved the life of a contract worker at Camp Liberty, Baghdad after his truck turned over going into a canal.**

# Big dig takes a bite of desert

Story and Photos by  
**Spec. Andy Miller**  
*122nd Mobile Public Affairs*

**LATIFIYAH, Iraq** — After several weeks of collecting and destroying weapons caches in the Latifiyah area of north Babil, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division, got a tip about a cache in the desert.

What they found buried in man-made desert berms was a series of caches that resulted in the destruction of over 300 artillery rounds, hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, over 100 grenade rounds and an assortment of other munitions and armaments including surface-to-air rockets, surface-to-surface rockets and missiles, and improvised explosive devices.

"It's mundane any more to find 1,000 crates of 14.5 mm. ammunition. It's not big deal anymore. You've got to go for an SA-7 (surface-to-air rocket) or something else," Maj. Chris Wilbeck, the Task Force operations officer, said after the third day of Operation Big Dig.

The operation meant a lot to the

Soldiers of the Task Force, who have been in theater for 14 months, and are scheduled to redeploy early February. It's the biggest weapons cache they've found during their tour, which included turns in Abu Ghraib, Fallujah and most recently Latifiyah.

"It's been really great to end on this note," Wilbeck said. "Unfortunately I don't think we will be able to find everything before we leave, so we're going to have to hand this off to the unit that relieves us, and it will give them plenty to do. I think they'll be digging this kind of stuff for weeks."

"So it's been really good, and I think what we're doing here has a direct impact. This is like the warehouse where people would go to, to get IEDs and explosives to use in Baghdad and elsewhere. So we've taken away their wholesaler," Wilbeck continued.

Many of the armaments were found by Soldiers of the Task Force's attached Estonian, 'Stone', platoon and Iraqi Army platoon. On the second day of the operation, Estonian Soldiers found one of the operations more impressive caches



**Estonian Soldiers attached to Task Force 2-12 Cav. unearth a cache of machine gun ammunition in the Latifiyah desert during the first day of Operation Big Dig. Over four days the Task Force unearthed nearly 700,000 rounds of linked ammunition.**

using metal detectors and shovels; seven of nine Frog-7b 1000 kg. warheads. They found the first two on day one.

"Wow, at first we didn't know what they were. We weren't sure exactly what they were. It was pretty interesting," Cpl. Chad Sowers, a Task Force radio operator who

**See Cache** ————— **14A**



**Soldiers from 1/112 Inf. Div. pull security as they prepare to escort a bus containing recently released prisoners en route to a halfway house.**

# Detainees receive care after their release

Story and Photos by  
**Spec. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
*1st Bde. Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A group of prisoners from Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad were released and escorted to a halfway house by a team of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and 1st

Battalion, 112th Infantry Soldiers Feb. 9.

The halfway house is one of three existing to prepare detainees for life after prison. The men will stay at the shelter for three days, where they will be asked how they want to live their lives legitimately and be given a chance to better transition back into the community.

**See Prisoner** ————— **14A**

# Installations identified for barracks improvement, upgrade program

*Frontline Staff*

**WASHINGTON** — Work will start soon on a \$250 million program to improve living conditions for single soldiers living in permanent-party barracks.

Twelve installations have been identified for the initial stage of the Army's Barracks Improvement Program. About 95 barracks were identified as needing immediate work to reverse deterioration and

correct life, health and safety deficiencies. About \$96 million is needed to improve conditions in permanent-party barracks at the 12 installations.

Installations identified to lead the Barracks Improvement Program are Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Gordon and Fort Stewart, Ga.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Polk, La., Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Hood, Texas;

Fort Eustis, Va.; and Fort Lewis, Wash.

"This will make a huge difference in the quality of life for Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, director of the Installation Management Agency. "The immediate funding is not intended to fully renovate any barracks - the first priority is to remediate the most serious problems so every Soldier has a safe place to live."

Correcting life, health and safety



**Ft. Stewart is one of the Army installations scheduled for significant barracks upgrades.**

problems is the primary focus. Barracks Improvement Program goals also include mold and mildew removal; repairing or replacing damaged heating or air conditioning systems; fixing water leaks; and ensuring all toilets, showers and plumbing are in working condition. Painting of buildings and repair of doors and windows to improve living conditions is planned.

"IMA is uniquely positioned as the single overseer of installations to see that this money gets spent in the right places and for the right things to make a real difference for Soldiers," Johnson said.

"The Army has committed about \$250 million a year to repair and maintain facilities to make sure they don't fall into disrepair again," Johnson went on to say.

# Garrison commander addresses barracks issue, new funding

**FORT STEWART, Ga.** — Fort Stewart is expected to get funding to repair existing barracks here in compliance with the Army's Quality of Life standards for junior enlisted Soldiers, Garrison Commander, Col. John M. Kidd, announced today. Of the \$260 million earmarked Army-wide to ensure adequate, healthy, and safe barracks for our Soldiers, approximately \$30 million is programmed at Fort Stewart to make repairs to the installation's Central Energy Plant, which supplies hot water, heated and cooled air to the barracks, and life and health safety projects such as mold and mildew mitigation. "The U.S. Army Forces Command commander and the Deputy Director of the Installation Management Agency, recently viewed facilities, primarily barracks at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, to determine what quality of life and safety improvements could be made to the barracks and operations facilities over the next year", Col. Kidd said. In the past two years, the IMA has been building and renovating barracks under a long-term \$10 billion program. This short-term, critical funding allows IMA to identify and upgrade the Army's most deficient barracks by September 2006.

Weather Forecast

FRIDAY

56° 33°

SATURDAY

60° 39°

SUNDAY

64° 46°

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**Fighting, training...**  
**Spec. Johnny Crisco of Milton, Fla., C Co. 1/64 Armor boresights his tank before firing practice rounds Jan. 31.**

Courtesy Photo





# Marne Six Sends

Rock of the Marne

The Marne team is beginning operations in Iraq and completing our deployment from Kuwait to Iraq in support of our assigned mission as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 1st Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams have joined Task Force Liberty and are operating to our North. Our Aviation Brigade, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Brigade Combat Team along with the Division Support Brigade has moved into their Forward Operating Bases in Iraq and are beginning operations. The 3rd Brigade Combat Team 1st Armored Division has joined the Marne Team. A few of the Brigade's units are completing training and equipment preparation at our camps in Kuwait. The rest of the

Brigade has moved to Iraq and are also beginning operations. We have a terrific team assembled for the job ahead with units from seven installations across seventeen states. We have been fortunate that winter is still holding on in Iraq and the weather in general has not hindered our operations. Soldiers across the division have begun the process of relieving the fine Soldiers of the 1st Infantry and 1st Cavalry divisions. We should all be proud of the terrific service these Soldiers have performed for our country and the Iraqi people. I would like to extend my condolences to the families and friends of Sgt. Chad W. Lake, Sgt. Rene Knox, Jr., and Spc. Dakotah

L. Gooding who died in a recent vehicle accident. I ask all of you for your continued prayers, especially for those Marne Soldiers who have been lost and injured. Do not forget that we have over 650 Marne Soldiers, from 110th QM, 416th Trans, 559th QM, 293rd MPs, 95th TMDE and 179th MPs, who are on mission in Iraq separate from the division. Our mission is unchanged. Our units in Kuwait will complete the training program, ready their equipment, move forward to join us in Iraq as we complete the process of taking over this important mission. Mission.....Soldiers.....Teamwork "Rock of the Marne!"

## SecDef speaks out on Iraqi vote

Hon. Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

On January 30th in Iraq, the world witnessed an important moment in the global struggle against tyranny, a moment that historians might one day call a major turning point. American men and women in uniform, who were instrumental in the liberation of Iraq, were there to witness this moment as well. During the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq, many of you have faced difficult times far from home. I suspect there have been moments along the way when some of you may have wondered whether or not the effort would be worth the cost, or whether, even the people you were trying to help truly stood with you. Last Sunday, the Iraqi people answered those understandable

questions in a resounding way, just as voters had in Afghanistan last October. The world is experiencing a global struggle between freedom and fear and you are on the side of freedom. That's the side to be on. And the people of Afghanistan, and the people of Iraq, have chosen to stand with you. Consider the courage it took for the Iraqi people to go to the polls when they had been warned that the act of voting could cost them and their family members their lives. Think of the determination they must have possessed to risk becoming targets for bombings or beheadings. And yet the Iraqis voted, millions of them. Voters arrived on crutches and donkey carts. Passing by graffiti warnings on the walls that said: You vote, you die. Iraqis came to a polling station to vote even after a rocket attack had killed three people several hours earlier.

Children waved Iraqi flags as they witnessed the birth of their new free system. Elderly women with tears in their eyes held up their voting cards, and voters displayed their ink-stained fingers as badges of honor. In the fight against extremism, Iraq's security forces also deserve recognition for their bravery and their willingness, despite the threats, to wear their country's uniforms and to provide security on Sunday for both the millions of voters and the thousands of election workers. These are times of consequence. In the past few months, fifty million free people in Afghanistan and Iraq have begun to build new futures. They have rejected the extremism that fuels attacks on civilized people. And you have made that possible. Have no doubt: the courage and sacrifices of U.S. forces have helped to create the environment in which Afghans and

Iraqis are developing the ability to take hold of their countries. Now these free people continue to seek your help in building free, democratic and peaceful nations in some of the world's most violent regions. No one treasures peace more than you who have endured the horrors of war. So to all of you who are serving on freedom's front lines, and to your families, I offer my deepest appreciation and respect. To those who have lost friends or loved ones during this conflict or who have been injured in defense or our freedom, find comfort in knowing that your sacrifices have historic meaning. And know that one day, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will find a way to thank you, as I do, from the bottom of my heart. May god bless you and may god bless the United States.

## Marne Voices

The **Frontline**  
Readers respond to the question:  
"Why is it important to celebrate black history month?"

"It teaches you about our heritage."

Sgt. Tressey Brisco  
D Battery  
1-39 Field Artillery



"So we don't forget the past. We've made a lot of progress and also to pass on our history to upcoming generations."

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Brown  
1-118th Field Artillery National Guard in Savannah

"To educate and help people focus on and remember our heritage."

Sgt. Pamala Pace  
D Battery  
1-39 Field Artillery



"For all the contributions made through history with music, art, the military and politics."

Spc. Vincent Pollard  
B Company  
148th Forward Support Battalion

"I'm glad we celebrate it because everyone gets involved, from teaching people the culture."

Staff Sgt. Charles Singletary  
306 Military Intelligence Battalion  
Fort Huachuca, Az.



"To remember those who were great during the timeframe because so many have died and no one remembers everything- especially in the wars during the Vietnam era."

Master Sgt. Calvin Smith  
24 Infantry Division  
Fort Riley, Ks.

## CENTCOM News

### Recruitment drive for Iraqi Army draws thousands

**SOUTHERN IRAQ** — An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 men arrived by foot, bus, and other vehicles by sun up Feb. 14, at an airfield outside an Iraqi Army base in an effort to join Iraq's army, officials said. Of that, approximately 5,000 made it through a screening process that led them onto the base,

which is home to several thousand Iraqi Soldiers and a contingent of U.S. service members, officials said. Most will be transferred to other bases in Iraq to supplement existing units.

The process was a result of the largest recruitment effort for the Iraqi Army to date, said U.S. Navy Lt.



Cmdr. Anthony Woodley of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. During the screening process, potential recruits were given a literacy test, physical condition check and questioned about prior military service. Once inside the base, they went through a medical screening

and received uniforms, boots and other military-related clothing. U.S. Army officials were expecting a little more than 6,000 potential recruits. U.S. military members from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy were joined by several civilian security personnel and a few hundred Iraqi Soldiers stationed at the base. Several dozen Iraqi Soldiers arrived the day before and went to work early the next morning, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Harvey, base commander.

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD MASTER PLAN AND ITS EFFECT ON HISTORIC RESOURCES AT HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, GEORGIA

The Department of the Army hereby gives notice of a determination of an adverse effect to the Strategic Air Command Historic District at Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF). Fort Stewart has entered into consultations with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the effects of the implementation of the HAAF Master Plan on the Historic District. The consultations address the impacts to historic resources and proposed mitigative actions. All public review comments concerning the project, its effects, and the proposed mitigative actions must be received no later than Mar. 8, 2005. A copy of the consultation letter detailing the project and the proposed mitigation is available for public review from Feb. 7 to Mar. 8, 2005 at the following libraries.

Tues. — Wed.; 11:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
Mall Branch Library  
7 Mall Annex  
Savannah, Ga. 31406  
Mon. — Thurs.; 9 a.m. — 9 p.m.  
Fri. — Sat.; 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.  
Sun. 2 — 6 p.m.

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Library  
175 Bourne Ave.  
Pooler, Ga. 31322  
Mon. — Fri.; 10 am — 4 pm

Request all comments be mailed to the following address:

Mr. George Harris  
Environmental Division  
Directorate of Public Works  
HQS, Fort Stewart  
1550 Frank Cochran Drive  
BLdg. 1137  
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4927

Hunter Army Airfield Library  
BLdg. 1290  
165 Markwell Street  
Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. 31409

## Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Steven G. Bayow**, B CO/2-7 INF/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Elizabeth Barnhart, G CO/3FSB/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-3393, or (210) 643-3650.

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Daniel Torres**, B CO/2-7 INF/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Jacqueline M. Bertrans, G CO/3FSB/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-3393, or (912) 223-1196.

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# National Guardsman awarded Silver Star for actions in Iraq

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. John Queen**  
*1st Cavalry Division*



**Spc. Gerrit Kobes was awarded the Silver Star in Baghdad Feb. 9 by Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division, for his acts of heroism during an ambush late last year. Kobes, the father of two boys, is a Washington state Army National Guardsman assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment.**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Washington Army National Guardsmen, Spc. Gerrit Kobes, received one of the United States' highest military awards for bravery in combat Feb. 9 during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Honor in Baghdad.

Kobes, of Kettle Falls, Wash., medical specialist, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, was presented the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander, 1st Cavalry Division, for his acts of heroism during an attack in early November last year.

"I knew we did something special that day," Kobes said, "but I didn't expect anything like this."

During his deployment to Iraq, Kobes has been temporarily reas-

signed to a California Army National Guard unit that helps the 1st Cavalry Division's Task Force Steel Dragon provide convoy security throughout Iraq.

Kobes was serving as a medic with two platoons from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment during a two-day escort mission in which troop carrying trucks were ferrying Iraqi Soldiers and equipment to Fallujah for the upcoming campaign Nov. 2, 2004.

On the first day of the mission their convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

"We just pushed through that," Kobes said. "No one was injured and only one Iraqi vehicle was disabled."

The next day however the convoy would not be so fortunate.

After rallying in the Abu Ghraib province west of Baghdad, Kobes' convoy of nearly 60 American and Iraqi vehicles moved out.

"It was a big, long convoy," Kobes explained. "My truck was right in the middle of it."

As the convoy moved towards Fallujah, one of the lead vehicles carrying Iraqi National Guardsmen was slammed by a rocket propelled grenade. The disabled truck halted the convoy making what insurgents hoped would be easy prey.

From nearby buildings and other concealed areas, insurgents opened up on the column of immobilized vehicles with two heavy machineguns, RPG's and a hail of small arms fire.

To make the situation even more chaotic, Kobes' vehicle couldn't move forward to the destroyed truck with the injured soldiers.

"When we got the call that a vehicle had been hit, we tried to drive around the ING, but they

were already dismounting their trucks," Kobes said. "They were shooting in all directions and taking cover on the side of the road in a ditch. We couldn't move around them."

Unable to drive to the wounded, he grabbed his aid-bag and along with his platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. John Todd, ran to their position nearly 500 meters ahead through a storm of enemy fire.

"I wasn't really thinking about what was going on around me," Kobes said. "I was just focusing on what I had to get done."

When he and Todd reached the wounded, they found Marines trying to secure the site. After a rapid assessment of the wounded Iraqi Soldiers, Kobes jumped into action.

"There were four wounded ING soldiers there," Kobes said. "One was pretty bad off with arterial bleeding on his right arm from shrapnel wounds."

As soldiers from Bravo Company's 4th platoon laid down suppressive fire to repel the attackers Kobes quickly applied a tourniquet to the wound and stopped the bleeding. He then began to assess the others wounds. One Iraqi soldier had a head injury and a hole through his hand. Another's leg was bleeding and the fourth had shrapnel wounds on his face.

"I treated the wounds," he explained. "I put pressure dressings on the head injury and bandaged the guys arm — it was all happening pretty quick."

The soldier with the tourniquet appeared to be in a lot of pain so Kobes called for Spc. Haytham Ibrahim, an infantryman with Bravo Company who speaks Arabic. He had Ibrahim explain to the wounded Iraqi what he was doing and to tell him everything

was going to be alright. He also had Ibrahim tell him that Kobes was going to give him morphine to ease the pain.

By this time the convoy was starting to move, Kobes once again exposed himself to fire as he loaded the wounded on to the Iraqi vehicles so they could be evacuated to the nearest aid station.

While on the ground there, Kobes assessed a fifth Iraqi Soldier, the one who took the brunt of the first RPG round during the attack that disabled the truck.

"They had tried to call in a MEDEVAC for him," Kobes said, "but once I saw his injuries I told them to call it off — It was too late."

Kobes and Todd then returned to their vehicle and continued on to Fallujah.

"While all the Soldiers that day fought as a team and attributed to the successful accomplishment of their mission," said Lt. Col. Greg Schultz, commander, Task Force Steele Dragon, speaking at the ceremony, "one Soldier stood out under fire in that action to save the lives of several Iraqi soldiers."

Maj. Gen. Chiarelli looked at Kobes standing in front of Soldiers from Bravo Company after pinning the medal to his uniform and commented that what makes his story so amazing is that it wasn't American Soldiers Kobes went to save.

"It was coalition Soldiers — Iraqi National Guardsmen," Maj. Gen. Chiarelli said. "Sir, you are a tremendous individual and a great hero, and I'm honored to be in your presence."

Kobes admits that although the division commander calls him a hero he could not have done what he did that day if it was not for the support of the soldiers of Bravo Company.



**Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli presents the Silver Star to Spc. Kobes during a ceremony in Baghdad.**



# 82nd Airborne Division gets new digs in hotel

Story and photos by  
By Pfc. Mike Pryor  
82nd Airborne Div. Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, IRAQ** — The insurgency has been bad for business at Baghdad's Sheraton Hotel. On a recent Monday afternoon, the hotel's opulent lobby was quiet. The marble floors gleamed, the carved alabaster fountain gurgled, and the flowers were fresh, but the bell at the reception desk was silent. Almost all of the available rooms were vacant. Without any guests to wait on, employees sat idly in couches, smoking cigarettes and watching TV.

Just before sunset, however, several trucks loaded with passengers pulled up outside the hotel. Inside them was the first large group of paying customers the Sheraton had seen in months. But as the trucks emptied out and men in fatigues and body armor began filling up the lobby with rucksacks, equipment, and weapons, it was clear that these were no ordinary guests. The 82nd Airborne was checking in.

Approximately 70 Paratroopers from C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, made the Sheraton their new base of operations when they assumed control of the Baghdad Hotel District from an Oregon National Guard Battalion Feb. 6.

"Not bad for a bunch of gun bunnies," said Spc. Brian Gilbert, of Lubbock, Texas, surveying his luxurious new home.

C Battery's mission is to secure the area around the Sheraton, Palestine, and Baghdad Hotels and maintain a deterring presence in the rest of the district via regular mounted and dismounted patrols, Sgt. 1st Class Phong Tran, platoon sergeant, C Battery.

The Hotel District is a densely populated area on the edge of the Tigris-Euphrates River in between the International Zone and Sadr City. It contains a mixture of businesses, residences, government buildings and the hotels, which gives the area its name. The most famous hotel in the district is probably the Palestine, which used to house reporters for CNN, Fox News and numerous other media outlets. CNN's famous footage of bombs bursting over Baghdad during the first days of Operation Desert Storm was filmed from the Palestine's roof.

The Palestine currently houses a small number of C Battery's paratroopers. Others are staying down the street in the Baghdad Hotel. The majority of the battery, however, resides in the Sheraton.

The hotel, despite its glamorous outward appearance, was actually more like a crack house inside when the paratroopers first moved into their rooms. They found smashed mirrors, broken pieces of furniture, and even a stack of blood-stained mattresses in one room, Staff Sgt. William Hutchens said.

The industrious staff quickly cleaned up the mess, however, and by the end of the first day, every room was sparkling. Besides, considering where C Battery had been staying before — a leaking, cavernous government building in the IZ shot full of Tomahawk-missile holes — none of the artillerymen were going to complain about a few blood stains when they had heated



Pfc. John Edwards of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division patrols the streets of Baghdad's Hotel District Feb. 12.



Pfc. John Edwards of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division passes a wall covered in posters promoting the recent Iraqi elections while on a patrol of Baghdad's hotel district Feb. 12.

rooms, indoor plumbing and cable television.

"Yeah, we're living the life," said Sgt. Jason Meyer as he took in the view from his room's balcony. "I wouldn't even mind being extended as long as we can stay here."

The Sheraton's enterprising staff, happy to finally be making some money, have been giving the paratroopers the full-service treatment. There's no room service, but they can have their laundry done and their rooms cleaned for only a few dollars.

Not surprisingly, maintaining a military atmosphere in a place focused on pampering guests has presented a few problems. On one occasion, the battery's team leaders and company commander were discussing strategy inside their penthouse operations center when a smiling room attendant wandered inside to clean. He was quickly escorted out.

For the most part, life at the three hotels has been comfortable. The rest of the district, however, has been more challenging. Recent attacks on coalition forces in the area have included the wounding of an American Soldier by small arms fire and a car bomb that exploded close to a nearby bridge. The neighborhood even looks dangerous. A few blocks from the hotels the buildings turn into crumbling, decrepit hovels.



Sgt. Patrick Jacobson, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, watches the Baghdad city skyline from an observation point on the roof of the Sheraton Hotel Feb. 11. The famous Palestine Hotel is visible in the background.

"Part of this area looks like something out of a Charles Dickens novel," said Tran.

Patrolling such an area was once the exclusive job of infantry units.

Not anymore. With this assignment, the artillerymen of C Battery have become infantrymen.

It is not the first time. Tran estimated that about 60 percent of the company had experience with infantry tactics during their last deployment.

"We were with the infantry last time, and everything they did we were right there with them," said Tran.

Even so, it took a few days of patrolling for the men of C Battery to find their rhythm as "ground-pounders." Some of the demands of the job seemed foreign to them.

"I'm an artilleryman, I'm not supposed to walk," said Sgt. Patrick Jacobson of Walton, N.Y., only half-jokingly, after his second long foot patrol of the day.

Thanks to their seasoned leadership, however, most of the paratroopers have adapted well to the mission, Tran said.

But the streets are still dangerous, and he

counsels his younger paratroopers to listen and learn from the experiences of their senior non-commissioned officers — men like Sgt. 1st Class Lincoya Martinez.

Before setting out on a recent patrol, Martinez gathered his squad around him and passed on some quiet words of advice.

"I don't know what your mantra is or what makes you tick, but you need to find your spiritual happy place right now. You need to get fired up. Because every time we stop, you need to be thinking this could be the OK corral, this could be the last stand, and you need to be ready," Martinez said.

They listened, and everyone returned from the patrol safely.

The work never stops in the Hotel District, and the paratroopers of C Battery are maintaining an intense operations tempo to keep up.

They work 36 hours and take 12 hours off. Teams rotate between patrolling, sitting on observation points, and manning a quick reaction force before they get a break.

However, many of them say that being able to come in and relax in their comfortable hotel rooms afterwards makes the work easy.

## U.S. senators visit troops in Iraq



Senator Johnny Isaacson (R-Ga.) gives Staff Sgt. Christopher Bruce, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, an Atlanta Braves baseball cap during his visit with 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.



Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) shares a laugh with Pfc. Annette Ruiz, Headquarters Company, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division and other 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers during a recent visit to Forward Operating Base Union 1 dining facility Feb. 5.



Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oka.) chats with Pfc. Cecilia McLaughlan, Company A, 13th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, during a visit with 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers in central Baghdad.

Photos by Pfc. Mike Pryor



# 'King of Battle' maintains mission readiness in Iraq

**Spc. Erin Robicheaux**  
256th Bde. Combat Team  
Public Affairs

**CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad** — It has been said that the "King of Battle," also known as the field artillery, is made up of many parts. The Fire support teams are considered the "eyes," the fire direction center is the "brains," and the gun crews are the "muscles."

It takes all of these pieces working together to make a mission successful, and the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery are above and beyond the rest when it comes to their job performance.

The history of the New Orleans unit is a long and distinguished one that dates back to Sept. 7, 1838. Beginning as the Washington

Artillery, the 1-141st Field Artillery is the oldest militia unit in the state of Louisiana, as well as the oldest field artillery battalion outside of the original thirteen colonies.

Still considered the Washington Artillery, the servicemen of the battalion served under Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War, both as infantry and artillery. During the span of the Civil War, they were involved in over 60 battles, including Shiloh, First Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

In 1917 the Washington Artillery was redesignated as the 1-141st Field Artillery Regiment and in 1979 was assigned to the 256th Infantry Brigade. Today, they are joined in the fight against global terrorism, and are playing a vital role in making the lives of the Iraqi people better.

The process of the artillery missions runs like a well-oiled machine when the steps are accurately executed, and the 1-141 has a glowing reputation for accuracy.

Maj. Harry "Hank" Pezold is the 256th Brigade Combat Team fire support officer. He said the mechanics of field artillery are an exact science of meteorology and computational data. Everything has to be taken into consideration when setting up a target, from the speed of the round going downrange to the rotation of the earth on its axis.

"Because of where you're positioned on earth, you're going to have some type of correction for some reason," Pezold said. "It's stuff that you can't measure like temperature or the gun's location on the globe."

There are five requirements of accurate and predictive fires: target location; gun location (firing unit location); accurate computational data; accurate meteorological data; and accurate ammunition and weapon data.

Fire support's main mission is to work with the maneuver elements, specifically, the infantry and armored battalions. They determine all target locations and initiate missions. Being the center of activity, its mission is to synchronize all other firings with other assets, such as the Air Force and Army aviation, including indirect artillery fire, if it is needed.

Artillery fire is an indirect fire system, which means that the gun crew does not have physical eyes on the target. The forward observer is the only one who actually sees



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

**Spc. Ronald Webre, from Houma, La., Battery B, 1-141st FA, cleans the artillery piece he is in charge of prior to a mission requirement.**



Spc. Erin Robicheaux

**Sgt. Cory Brandt, from New Orleans, La., 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, prepares a charge to be loaded into a howitzer.**

where the round will hit, before and after the fact.

After the call for fire is initiated by the FO, headquarters checks the activities to ensure that there are no friendlies in the kill zone. After it is confirmed, the fire direction center decides how the target will be engaged. After the computations and configurations are complete, the personnel on the M109A6 Paladin actually pick up the 100 pound round, load and fires the weapon.

Though they cannot see the target, based on the information that is sent to them by the FDC, they know exactly where the weapon should be aimed. After the round is sent and the target is engaged, the FO assesses the outcome and determines if the mission was a success.

Pezold admits that the process of an artillery mission is an involved one.

"It's a lot of math, trigonometry and algebra mostly," he said. "It can be difficult because there are so many people involved."

He compared artillery to an M16A2 rifle. When someone is shooting a direct fire weapon, the same person who is shooting also

does the loading and aiming. Artillerymen do not have the luxury of the simple control of a single shooter. Being well rehearsed, the field artillery provides accurate and timely fires.

The crew in the Paladin is the nuts and bolts that hold the artillery mission together. Sgt. Cory Brandt from New Orleans has been a member of Battery B, 1-141 FA for ten years and knows the ins and outs of the system. He said it's not only the level of damage that intimidates the insurgents, but also the level of noise.

"One round is the equivalent of about seven hand grenades and the kill zone is about fifty meters," he explained. "It's also psychological because it's so loud, and they think twice after hearing it."

Brandt said the FDC is equipped with radars that will track incoming rounds, and, before that round hits, within seconds he and his team will receive a mission and get their own round in the air. Before the insurgent could make it off of his mortar tube or get away from a rocket launcher, he has our artillery fire coming right back at him.

"It doesn't take much for them to realize that we're going to shoot back," Brandt said.

# Applying ROE daily in Iraq

**Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
*1st Bde. Public Affairs*

The Army adheres to a set of standards for just about any task it embarks upon. Common and specific tasks have guidelines in print as a reference for Soldiers who need to know the correct procedure for performing these tasks. As in garrison, there are rules for a Soldier's performance and conduct while on the battlefield.

When it comes to the use of force, these guidelines are called the rules of engagement. Recently, Maj. Dean Lynch, the command judge advocate, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, gathered a group of 1st BCT soldiers at Camp New York, Kuwait, to discuss these rules as they apply to soldiers operating in Iraq.

"Rules of engagement are a commander's tool for regulating and controlling the use of force," Lynch said. "The ROE specifically states a Soldier may protect himself and his buddies against injury or death. The essential rule I want you to remember is that you have an absolute right to defend yourself, your fellow soldiers, coalition forces and Iraqi civilians against any imminent threat of serious bodily harm," Lynch said.

Sometimes it may be hard for a Soldier to choose whether or not danger is imminent. The important thing to remember is to trust your gut instinct and your training when faced with a difficult situation, Lynch said.

"Just knowing that you've got the right to defend yourself doesn't cut it. It is critical that you have the ability to recognize actual threats, in real time, in order to know when you are justified in using a particular level of force to neutralize a given threat," Lynch said. "When you see hostile acts towards you or your buddies,

you'll know it, and you'll know how to respond. The harder thing is being able to recognize hostile intent in a battlefield where the enemy looks just like a normal Iraqi citizen until he or she raises a weapon towards you. I wish I had the yardstick that would let you measure hostile intent, but I don't. All I can tell you is that you've got to trust your instincts, and you've got to trust your training. Those two things are going to help you know hostile intent when you see it, and will help you know how to respond."

While instinct is vital to making a decision in a stressful situation, instinct alone will not carry the day, Lynch said. He emphasized the importance of situational awareness and the need to adopt a proactive mindset with respect to daily missions and duties.

"You can't fall into a reactionary mode in Iraq," Lynch said, "You've got to force yourselves to adopt a mindset where you are in predictive analysis mode. You've got to be able merge the intelligence available to you, your awareness of the current situation, and your training in order to quickly recognize hostile intent and react with the appropriate level of force. If you are reactionary, and haven't thought through your mission and environment beforehand, you will not have enough time to make the right call. You'll either do the wrong thing from an ROE standpoint, or worse, you'll fail to recognize the threat until it is too late. You've got to visualize what you'll be doing on a particular mission before you actually go out on that mission. Think about where the danger areas are located. Think about where we have recently had contact with the enemy, then visualize that environment, visualize what the threat will look like and how it might present itself. Then think about what the ROE allows you to do, and visualize how you will disarm the threat or situation."



File Photo

***All American Soldiers deployed to Iraq are trained in the proper use of force.***

When a Soldier realizes deadly force is necessary, he should be prepared to use it right away.

"The level of force you use depends entirely on the situation you are faced with there on the ground. You need to do what it takes to neutralize the threat, nothing more and nothing less. We always want our response to be reasoned and proportional to the threat, but this doesn't mean you have to always go through a programmed escalation of force," Lynch said. "I'm not saying go out there and try to be a cowboy or look for a reason to use deadly force, but I am saying that I don't want you to hesitate to respond with the force required to bring you and your buddies home safely to your family. There will be times when the need to use deadly force is immediate."

Lynch also reminded the soldiers that they wield an awesome amount of power. "Each of you carries at least one weapon that has the power to take life. With that power comes an incredible amount of responsibility," Lynch said.

"You are going to have to combine that proactive mindset with the professionalism each of you already brings to the table. If we do the wrong thing here, we are just creating problems for ourselves and those who follow us in Iraq."

Violations of the Rules Of Engagement don't just hurt the overall mission in Iraq, but also potentially help the insurgency gather momentum when we overreact or use force indiscriminately, Lynch said.

"We've got to make sure that what we do today won't help the insurgents increase their numbers tomorrow," he went on to explain.

"We all want to complete the mission and get back home safely, but we also want to conduct ourselves so that we help the Iraqi people while we're here," Lynch said.

"When we come back home we want those we serve to recognize us as liberators, not as villains or bullies. The ROE we have now allows us to do this," he added.

# Americans train Iraqis for better future, life

**Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.**  
1st Bde.

Commanders and staff from 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and the 30th Brigade of the Iraqi Army met to discuss plans for training and security over the course of the next year at Camp Dagger Feb. 6.

"This was a quarterly training brief. The unit looks at all the training that has taken place over the last quarter, and the plans for the next one," said Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Koch, Iraqi Army liaison for 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div. "It was a perfect opportunity for 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. to interact with the 30th Bde. of the Iraqi Army. It was important for them to meet their counterparts and have an understanding of their function with the Iraqi Security Forces."

"Today we are meeting to discuss training for the last year and for next year," said Brig. Gen. Saleh Abdul Jabbar, commanding officer, 30th Bde.

Discussion of the training with the coalition forces is crucial to the growth of the new Iraqi forces, as most of the technology and information for building a better force will come from the coalition.

"When the old Iraqi army disbanded after the freedom of Iraq, the coalition reformed us," Jabbar said. "Since the reform, a lot of our training has come from the coalition. We



File Photo

## ***Iraqi and American Soldiers work toward the goal of preserving the peace in Iraq.***

get a lot of experience from that training. I hope that in the future we get more of that training to be successful in our work."

The old Iraqi Army did not have the technology the coalition has. They are looking forward to being a high-tech force capable of helping themselves in any situation, Jabbar said.

This will include training and employing modern weapon systems.

"We were surprised at the level of technology the coalition worked with. We have gained a lot of experience from them learning how to use that technology," Jabbar said.

Once they have mastered weapons technology, Jabbar feels confident they will be able to take responsibility back for the defense of their nation.

"Once we have this technology, we will be able to defend our communities better, and build a strong nation. This is what we hope for in the near future," Jabbar said.

It is good for the Iraqi people to have the

opportunity to train with Americans, because for so long they had no communication with the outside world, Jabbar said.

Despite all the military training and build up for defense, in the end all the Iraqi people want is peace in their nation.

"I say this to the American people and to the world. We have to work together to take care of the peace," Jabbar said. "I know it may take military operations to do so, but we must take care of the peace. I know Americans love peace; I want Iraqi people to love peace, too."

"What's most important is for the Iraqis to realize where they are at in their training and where they need to be in the future, because soon they will be running their own training," said Maj. Eric Frutche, 2nd Bde., 1st Inf. Div. ISF liaison officer-in-charge.

"That's where the 3rd Inf. Div. comes in, they will take their staff to the next level to be able to evaluate and plan training for themselves," he added.

# Finance implements new payment plan

**Sgt. 1st Class Tom Fowler**  
*FINOP*

The 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers who recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III are going to notice a pleasant surprise in their February Leave and Earning Statement — their deployment pay has already started. In fact, many Soldiers who departed Ft Stewart as late as Jan. 25, will see the increase in their first paycheck of February.

Maj. Richard Santiago, the 3rd Finance Company commander, who is leading the Army's Finance Transformation, implemented a pay entitlement plan to start all pay entitlements within 48 hours of arrival. Of the 15,000-plus division Soldiers who deployed in January, more than 95 percent will see their pay increase on Feb. 1.

You may wonder how it is possible to start the deployment pay entitlements this quickly without having your ID card scanned.

At Fort Stewart, Ga., there is a high-speed, hard-charging, noncommissioned officer who is making this happen. Staff Sgt. Franklin Morton is the NCOIC of the "Pay Entitlement Team"

Morton is personally overseeing and ensuring all Soldiers receive their deployment pay entitlements within 24 hours of arrival.

Although he hasn't deployed yet, he is working seven days a week with his team.

Achieving a 95 percent accuracy

rate, Morton made finance history last week by ensuring that more than 10,000 newly deployed soldiers received their deployment pay on Feb. 1. In fact, more than 600 Soldiers who arrived in country on Jan. 24, were paid within less than 24 hours! In paymaster circles, Morton is referred to as the "Michael Jordan" of finance.

Another hard-charging NCO who is making tremendous contributions to this effort is Sgt. Erica Burton, 3rd SSB PAS/system administrative NCO. Burton is also working numerous hours, including nights and weekends, to prepare the flight manifests and provide them to the pay entitlement team. Burton's hard work and efficient processing of flight manifests has had a phenomenal impact on pay timeliness.

For those deployed Soldiers who are entitled to Family Separation Allowance, you will see the additional \$250 in your next paycheck. However, you must fill out a DD 1561 and turn it in to your S1. You have to be down range for 30 days before you are paid FSA.

Also, those Soldiers who wish to contribute to the Savings Deposit Program must also be in country for 30 days before they can contribute to this program. You can make cash or check deposits at the local Finance Office or you may start an allotment from your pay. If you are wondering what "Saved Pay" is on your LES, this is the Hazard Duty Pay location which is payable at \$100 per month and prorated daily.



# Aviation Soldiers turn lifesavers

**Sgt. 1st Class David Abrams**  
3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait** — It was the kind of final exam that no one could have predicted — a bloody, fiery test of two 3rd Aviation Brigade Soldiers' medical skills one day after they graduated from the Army's Combat Lifesaver Course.

Staff Sgts. Byron Montgomery of LaVernia, Texas, and Miguel Rocha of Homestead, Fla., were heading to Rocha's home Dec. 31 to put his truck in storage before the two deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 when three miles south of Jacksonville a van traveling in the opposite direction was cut off by another vehicle, hit the guardrail and flipped on its side.

Montgomery and Rocha, roommates and co-workers in A Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, Avn. Bde., 3rd Infantry Division, had just received their CLS diplomas the day before, so they immediately stopped their vehicle and got out to assist.

"We knew exactly what to do from class — it all came flooding back to me, so that was a good feeling," Montgomery said.

In the van were a mother, her adult daughter, two 15-year-old

boys, a 14-year-old girl and a 10-year-old girl. One of the boys had died on impact, but the two Soldiers knew they needed to help save the others.

"I grabbed a hammer, so I could break out the windshield," Montgomery said. He also cut the seatbelts to free the trapped passengers.

The van caught on fire and the amount of rescue time immediately narrowed from minutes to seconds. By this time, a crowd had gathered and several others helped lift the burning van and set it upright so that the trapped victims could be freed more easily.

Rocha said someone grabbed a fire extinguisher, but it couldn't douse the flames.

"Time flew by," Montgomery said. "I just wanted to get them out of the burning car."

Soon, all occupants were out of the wreckage and Montgomery found himself trying to comfort one of the young girls. "She asked me if she was going to die and I told her no, we were there to help make sure that didn't happen," he said.

After the ambulances had whisked everyone away and the accident scene was under control, Montgomery and Rocha got back in their truck and continued on their journey, not telling anyone in their

unit about what they'd done. Aviation Brigade leaders only learned of the two lifesavers after the unit had deployed to Kuwait and Rocha was looking at photos he'd taken of the accident scene.

"We didn't want to make big deal about it," Rocha said.

Unbeknownst to them, another trio of Aviation Brigade Soldiers had assisted in a similar highway accident a week later.

Sgt. Peter VanHeyde of Houston, Texas and Pvts. Jason Sullivan of Chicago and Jeffrey Leviner of Spartansburg, S.C., were traveling back to Fort Bragg, N.C., Jan. 7 after picking up donations a Charlotte, N.C., radio station had collected for the OIF 3-bound Soldiers' unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, Avn. Bde.

Suddenly, a vehicle in the opposite lane lost control and crossed the median.

The airborne car landed down a steep embankment and VanHeyde said he saw the driver hit his head twice on the dashboard.

While Leviner called 911 and Sullivan made sure there was no fuel leak, VanHeyde began lifesaving measures on the victim.

"He was semi-conscious and moaning, so I started doing what I

could for him," VanHeyde said. He'd taken the CLS course eight months earlier and said he automatically knew what to do in the 15 minutes it took Union Emergency Medical Services to reach the crash site.

Later, the Soldiers learned that the victim was a military veteran who'd had a heart attack while driving.

"I will tell you that the three Soldiers' help was nothing short of a miracle as far as our crew was concerned," said Tina Busby, an administrative assistant with Union EMS. "The medics who responded to this call quite possibly couldn't have gotten this patient out of the wrecked vehicle nor carried him up the slope to the ambulance without their help because of the steep embankment where the vehicle had veered off the road."

In a letter Busby wrote to the 3rd Avn. Bde., she added, "They were nowhere to be found by our medics once the patient was secured in the ambulance and seemingly appeared and disappeared like guardian angels."

Six days later, the unit deployed to Kuwait and 1st Sgt. Tim Edsall of Hammondsport, N.Y., said he didn't learn about his Soldiers' actions until someone put three Army Commendation Medals in his hand.



Spc. Ben Brody

**Sgt. Tamiko Flowers, a supply sergeant, the first Soldier to reenlist from 1st BCT in Iraq, swears an oath during a ceremony at FOB Dagger, Tikrit, Iraq.**

## Children's dental health month ... keep smiling

**Maj. Georgia dela Cruz**  
U.S. Army Center for Health

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. The theme for 2005 is "A healthy smile is always in style." While a nice smile does improve a child's self-esteem and social connectivity, healthy baby teeth are also important for chewing, learning to speak properly, and guiding the development of the permanent teeth.

An important part of keeping your child's teeth healthy is regular brushing. The American Association of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that parents begin brushing their babies' teeth as soon as the teeth erupt into the mouth. Here are some tips to make brushing

easier for you and more fun for your child.

- When kids get tired, they are not apt to be cooperative. Parents should give their children a chance to wake up a little in the morning by scheduling brushing after breakfast. At night, timing can be tricky, because you want your children to brush after the last snack of the evening, but before they get too tired and cranky.

- Provide a stable step stool, if necessary, so your children can reach the sink comfortably and see themselves in the mirror when brushing their teeth.

- If your family uses fluoridated water, or you give your child fluoride supplements, don't use fluoride toothpaste until your child is 2 years old. After that, use only a pea-size

amount of toothpaste. Kids usually prefer fruit- or bubble gum-flavored toothpaste rather than mint.

- Children love to make choices. Have an assortment of child-size, soft-bristled toothbrushes and toothpastes that your child has chosen on hand. Then your children can choose which ones they want to use.

- Help your children understand what's going on by explaining that their teeth get dirty and covered with germs, just like their hands and faces.

The germs use food to make their teeth dirty, and brushing is the best way to get their teeth clean.

- Make a game out of brushing by telling your child that the germs are "sugar bugs."

Then they can "swat" or "chase" the sugar bugs with their toothbrush.

- Most children do not have the skills needed to brush their teeth thoroughly until they are about 8 years old. Parents should take turns brushing, and encourage the children to go first. Once the children are finished, praise them, and take your turn "swatting" any "sugar bugs" that they may have missed.

- Have your children spit several times after brushing, instead of rinsing. Most children cannot control their swallowing reflex until age 6 or so. If your child has trouble, Barbara Alden Wilson of Parenting magazine recommends telling him or her to look down at the drain and say "patooy." That way the spit doesn't wind up on the mirror.



File Photo

Remember, "A healthy smile is always in style," and children model the behavior that they see in the adults around them. If your children see you brush and floss regularly, they are much more likely to follow your good example and have a dazzling smile that they can treasure for a lifetime!



# POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 45/30.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to report accident.
- **Location:** Richmond Hill.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 34-year-old male.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at posted stop sign.
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Following too closely, no proof of insurance on person.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 36-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 59/45.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** 1st Lieutenant, 25-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Illegal possession of pornographic photographs, illegal transport of pornographic photographs.
- **Location:** Savannah.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old female.
- **Charges:** Driving on suspension or revocation, defective equipment.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Rape, indecent assault on a child, possession of child pornography, child abuse.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

## IMPERSONATION OF A CASUALTY NOTIFICATION OFFICER

The Ft. Stewart Military Police are looking for an individual posing as a Casualty Notification Officer who falsely reported to a family member that her spouse had been killed in Iraq. Through her calm, disciplined demeanor the family member was able to gather and provide the following critical information on both the subject and the vehicle he was driving. Subject is a white male, approximately 6'1", 180 pounds, black or brown hair, brown eyes, clean shaven with sideburns and a pale complexion, driving a blue or green pick-up truck with oversized tires, chrome wheels and Georgia tags.



Should any family member experience any incident of this nature, call the Military Police at (912)767-2822/4895 or 911.

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Deposit account fraud.
- **Location:** Hinesville.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 50-year-old male.
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended license, speeding 73/55.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Larceny of AAFES property, failure to obey a lawful order or regulation.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended.. license, speeding 44/30
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Family member, 77-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Unsafe turn.
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Family member, 31-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Child neglect.
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to obey general order, defective equipment.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property, simple assault, resistance, breach of arrest and escape.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 32-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Driving on a suspended drivers license.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 30-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 86/55.
- **Location:** Richmond Hill.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Destroy, steal, take and open mail, accessory after the fact.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old female, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Reckless driving, speeding 73/55, fleeing/attempting to elude police officer.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 60-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Failure to yield after passing stop sign.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.



## 3ID IN BRIEF

## Stewart

**Monthly Retirement Ceremony**

This event is being held in the Club Stewart Ballroom, Thursday at 2 p.m.

For more information call 767-8779.

**Bowling and Golf**

Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 5 p.m. for Soldiers and family members. No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m. Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.

**Red Cross CPR Instructors**

If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter — Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.

You can call 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.

**Finance Location Change**

As part of the preparation for deployment in support of OIF 3, the 3rd Finance Company will provide finance support to garrison units, MEDDAC and DEN-TAC from the finance section in the finance section located at the Soldiers Support Center.

All 3rd ID units will contin-

ue to receive Finance Support from the current Customer Service in Bldg. 9118 or the finance team located within the brigades.

For more information, call Capt. Langley or Master Sgt. Ramsey at 767-4680/5724.

**Track and Field/Soccer**

Registration is open and FREE to all current CYS members living on or off post. All children must have a current physical on file at time of registration.

For more information, call 767-2312/4371.

**Sweetheart Dance**

Club Stewart is hosting a Valentine's Day dance Saturday from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

For more information call, 368-2212.

**Library**

Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart - Schedule a 30 minute appointment at the Stewart Library to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

**Cooking Class**

Cooking Class - at Club Stewart from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Advance signups required by today. For more information call 368-2212.

## Hunter

**Tax Center**

Tax Center is now open to assist military ID card holders prepare their tax returns. The center can file your return electronically, and arrange direct deposit of refunds. Preparers can assist while you wait, or drop-off your return, and pick it up when it is ready to file.

The tax center is at the legal center, located in Bldg 1211, directly across from the Garrison Headquarters, from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., weekdays. Call 303-3675/3697 for more information.

**Recycle your old phone book**

2005-06 Savannah telephone directories are now available. Bins for recycling old phone books will be available at the HAAF and Fort Stewart recycling centers.

**Recycling Hours**

New hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm. The center has an after hour drop-off, located outside of the fenced area. Use weekends or after 4 pm to deposit pre-sorted recyclables. Call 240-0322 for more information..

**DECA Scholarship**

Commissary scholarship applications are due Monday and must be turned in at the commissary. Children of active, reserve, retired or deceased service members can compete for merit-based awards up to \$1,500. Dependents age 21 (or 23, if a full-time student) who will be attend-

ing college in 2005-06 are eligible. For more information, see Web site [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

**Spring Cleaning**

Clean up this Sunday, at the post-wide yard sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Military & civilians welcome. If you don't have a pass, bring your driver's license, vehicle registration & proof of insurance to receive a guest pass at Montgomery or Wilson gates.

**Free Child Care**

Free Child Care for dependents of deployed service members is available at Hunter Child Development Center the first Saturday of each month. The registration fee is waived, but you must enroll child with CDC. Reservations, blue registration card, and acopy of orders are required. For more information, call 352-6115 or 352-6075.

**Catholic Community Events**

•Stations of the Cross, Fridays, 6:30 p.m., at the Chapel

•Catholic Youth Organization Meeting, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel

•Lenten Lunch, Noon at the Chapel – All denominations welcome

•First Communion Parents Meeting, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. at the Religious Education Bldg. (Bldg. 129, next to the Chapel) Catholic Youth Mass, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

## Winn /Tuttle

**Holiday Observance Hours**

Winn will have limited services Friday and Monday in observation of President's Day. All services at Tuttle will be closed Friday and Monday.

**Newborn TRICARE Prime**

Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.

You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.

For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.

**TRICARE Phone Numbers**

For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946.

For more information of if you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.

**Ready to Quit Class**

If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class. You can register for the 4-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials. Ready to Quit is a pre-requisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation

program. The next class at Winn is 11 a.m. Thursday. The next class at Tuttle is 11 a.m. Thursday. For more information about the Winn class, call 370-5071. For more information about the Tuttle class, call Community Health Nursing at 1-800-652-9221.

**EDIS**

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6370.

**Walk to Winn Program**

This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration begins today and spaces are limited.

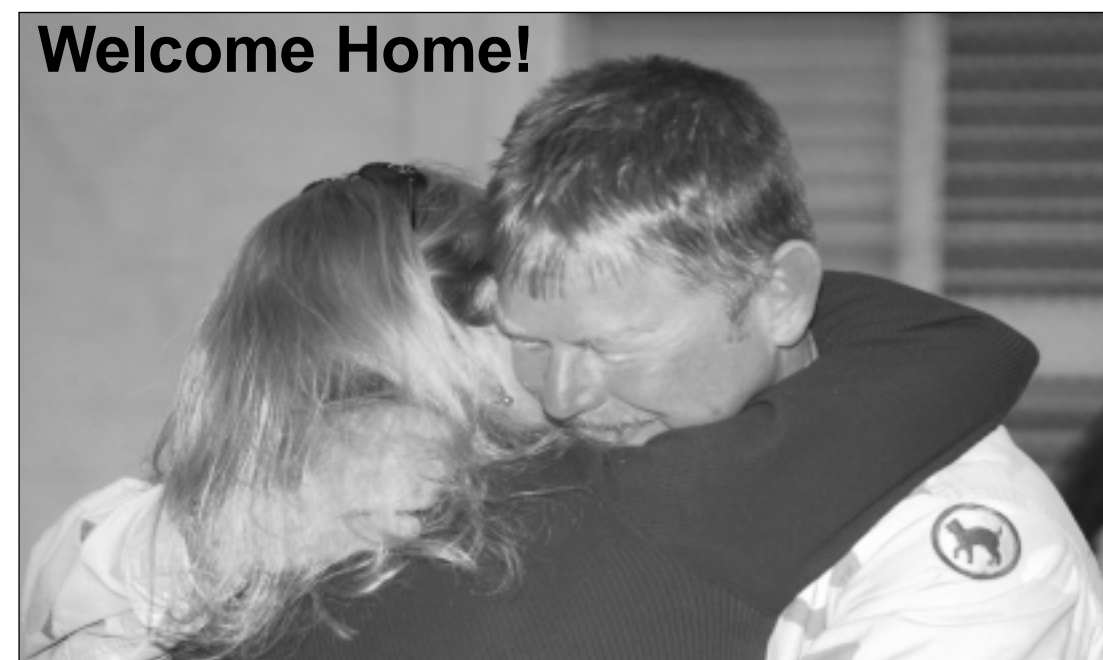
For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.

**New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours**

The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed weekends and federal holidays.



**Soldiers of the 498th Transportation Company stand at attention while waiting to be released from their welcome home formation.**



**Staff Sgt. Roger Frost, 498th Transportation Company, a National Guard unit from Mobile, Ala., hugs his wife Robin Frost during a welcome home ceremony at Caro Gym Feb. 8.**

Photos by Frontline Staff



## Don't be a terrorist target!

You can reduce your vulnerability of becoming a terrorist target.

When traveling by airplane:

- Do not fly on a flight targeted by terrorists.
- Report suspicious or unusual activity.
- Do not fly in uniform or with military luggage.
- Sit in the middle or rear portion of the airplane.
- If your airplane is hijacked, don't say or do anything, follow the instructions of your rescuers.

Mail safety, be aware of:

- Unexpected mail.
- Postmark or return address missing.
- Unusual handwriting.
- Excessive weight or size.
- Inflexibility.
- Springiness.
- Protruding wires.
- Odd Smell.
- Grease marks.
- Excessive Post.
- Metal inside.

## Stay professional — General Order 2

**Capt. Gary McNeal**  
3ID Legal Officer

Every 3rd Infantry Division Soldier needs to be familiar with General Order 2.

This week in Desert Justice, we will take a close look at General Order 2; who it applies to; what it says, and what the consequences may be for violating it.

General Order 2 applies to all military personnel assigned to the 3rd Inf. Div., present in the division's area of responsibility, and all military personnel under the operational control of the 3rd Inf. Div. commander and present for duty in the U.S. Central Command AOR.

It does not apply to Soldiers who are serving in the rear at home station, or serving outside the USCENTCOM AOR.

General Order 2 contains four prohibitions. Military personnel may not participate in relationships not required by the mission, or relationships which are a violation of AR 600-20.

This is to prevent any favoritism or misuse of rank, or any appearance of partiality or use of rank for personal gain.

Such relationships undermine the good order and discipline of the unit and may hinder the overall readiness of a unit in an operationally high-tempo environment.

General Order 2 also prohibits visitation of one gender to the quarters of someone from the opposite gender.

This applies for any purpose.

Soldiers of the opposite gender may not visit each other's quarters to socialize, to work, or to engage in any other activity.

Soldiers may not visit the quarters of non-DoD personnel.

They may not enter the quarters of civilian contractors for any purpose including socializing and work.

General Order 2 also prohibits the cohabitation of Soldiers of the opposite gender for any length of time.

The purpose behind these prohibitions is to avoid the adverse impact that these types of relationships may have on the morale, integrity, discipline, and authority of the command.

Soldiers have a duty to conduct themselves with a high degree of professionalism at all times.

This is especially important in the environment that 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers are now operating in. General Order 2 assists to enforce this professional conduct expected of 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers.

Violation of the order may subject a Soldier to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Civilians who are accompanying the force in the 3rd Inf. Div. AOR who violate the order may also face criminal prosecution or adverse administrative actions.

The order is not intended to restrict unit team-building activities.

Unit commanders may seek exceptions to the policy on a case-by-case basis.

Units are encouraged to find common areas or other meeting places to conduct their activities.

Remember that professionalism is part of the Warrior Ethos; it is a part of what makes our Soldiers the best in the world.

Always conduct yourself with integrity and a high degree of professionalism in everything that you do whether on or off duty.

## Tusker surgeon stresses safety at Camp New York

**Pfc. Dan Balda**  
4th Bde. PAO

Even though the 4th Brigade has yet to leave for Iraq, Soldiers still need to be wary of safety issues while at Camp New York.

A civilian contractor was involved in an accident Feb. 2, said Capt. Daniel Greene, the Battalion Surgeon for 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment.

"A civilian contractor of unspecified nationality was injured while unloading a truck vehicle from the back of a flatbed trailer," Greene said. "A chain under a great deal of tension was released from the other side and flew over the top of the tank and flew against his face. It struck the right side of his face. When I got to the scene the man was moaning but otherwise not making any other attempts at talking and was vomiting blood."

Greene credited the bystanders with coming to get him in plenty of time to save the man's life. He, his physician's assistant, and a medic hurried to the scene to render aid. Once they arrived at the scene of the accident they immediately began administering first aid. In this case the key issue was airway management, Greene said.

"We were able to turn him onto his side so he could breathe easier," Greene said. "We called

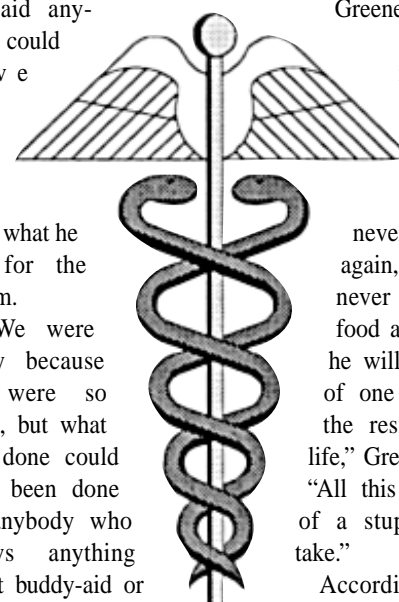
in a nine-line medical evacuation. A Blackhawk met us at the landing zone and was able to airlift the patient to a local hospital."

Even though he has an advanced medical degree and years of practice, he said anybody could have

quences of doing something like that are minimal.

When someone is talking about a steel chain holding down a multi-ton vehicle, the same stupid mistake results in a life-altering deformity, Greene said.

"This man will



done what he did for the victim.

"We were lucky because we were so close, but what was done could have been done by anybody who knows anything about buddy-aid or taken a combat lifesaver class," Greene said. "They need to have the wherewithal to do it though. Everybody can't stand around and think somebody else is going to come up and help this guy. If this guy had lost his airway he would have had approximately four minutes to live."

The most important thing about this for Soldiers is not the injury but the situation surrounding the injury, Greene said.

Accidents happen all the time. Plenty of people have released a small bungee-cord and had it come back and smack them in the face or hand, he explained. The conse-

never speak again, he will never chew food again and he will see out of one eye for the rest of his life," Greene said. "All this because of a stupid mistake."

According to Greene, there were simple ways that this accident could have been averted.

If he had been aware that the chain was being released, or the person relieving the chain had been more cautious, this probably would not have happened.

Safeguards were the issue here and Soldiers need to know that.

The safeguards are there to give a buffer zone so that this one-in-a-million chance doesn't occur, and reduces the chances of someone being injured.

"Just getting bumped by a Nissan Sentra might result in some broken legs, but if you're bumped

by a 113, it's going to crush you," Greene said.

In this case, the person threw the two safeguards to the wind. With a little more common sense he would have known not to stand there. The other person should have known the procedure and could have stopped the accident from happening, Greene said.

Greene doesn't fault the Army for the accident happening, rather the inattention to detail.

"I don't think the Army has been lax in not putting the safeguards in place, like clearing weapons before entering buildings," Greene said. "It's the individual Soldier failing to follow those procedures laid down for them by the leadership. Hopefully this will act as a wake-up call to the Soldiers at Camp New York."

For the most part Soldiers are just as vigilant here as they were back at Fort Stewart, but they have a little added stress here and in Iraq.

"The awareness is the same as it is back in the states, but the consequences here are 10 times worse," Greene said.

Everybody needs to be more hyper-vigilant so that they look out for the minor things.

"People think that if they get away with it a few times, then they think it's okay to continue with the unsafe behavior," Greene said.



# Camp Liberty bazaar opens

**Capt Diane Weed, USAF**  
*HQ AAFES*

**CAMP LIBERTY** — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service opened a new bazaar at Camp Liberty Jan. 12 to "provide more shopping for Soldiers, but also to help Iraq take another step forward in the rebuilding of the country," Dan Tompkins, vice president AAFES Iraq, said.

"This bazaar represents a historic moment; this facility was planned, coordinated, financed and built by the Iraqi vendors," said Tompkins. "These entrepreneurs represent the future of Iraq - men who will not yield to the terrorists and will bring Iraq into the brotherhood of democracies."

The bazaar houses more than 70 vendors selling everything from local perfumes to Iraqi souvenirs. "Many of the vendors sell items that are unique to Iraq and provide Soldiers an opportunity to buy a true souvenir without having to go outside of the camp," said Tompkins.

Shoppers at the all-Iraqi bazaar at Liberty can find items such as stained glass, handcrafted art, paintings, electronics, hardware items, custom made leather goods, Iraqi jewelry and footwear.

A unique centralized checkout system accepts cash and credit cards as well as the Department of Defense's Military Star credit card. AAFES carefully monitors prices and products, and all credit card transactions are conducted securely through the AAFES network.

The crowd of Soldiers on opening day quickly filed inside and within minutes the large facility was filled with hundreds of shoppers.

"The day's sales also reflected the Soldiers' approval of the new bazaar; we had outstanding sales on the first day," according to Bill Williams, business manager services, AAFES Iraq.

The new bazaar is a metal warehouse building built entirely by Iraqi contractors.

The contractors provided all construction labor and material for the approximate-

ly 10,000 sq. ft., \$140,000 building located next to the Camp Liberty Post Exchange.

The previous facility, a 5,000 square-foot series of Iraqi-provided tents with inadequate lighting, averaged about one-half of what it makes now.

The original bazaar began in mid-2003 at the AAFES facility located at the Baghdad International Airport in a warehouse across from Iraq's first AAFES Burger King facility. Negotiations took place with AAFES contracting at the end of 2004 to establish the first long term bazaar contract in Iraq.

The Liberty Bazaar has generated very strong sales during the last 6 months and some of the revenue generated is going back to the local economy to help regenerate Iraqi businesses.

A portion of the money goes through AAFES to fund Army and Air Force morale, welfare and recreation programs.

"The Liberty Bazaar is the



File photo

***The new exchange will offer Soldiers more choices of goods and services.***

most productive bazaar that AAFES operates on a continuous basis," said Williams, who was instrumental in establishing the new bazaar.

Tompkins was joined by representatives of the Camp Liberty mayor's cell and by two other special guests; Mohammed, the local Iraqi businessman who led the project, and Specialist Doug-

las Lavnick, who cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the new facility.

Lavnick, from Fontana, Wisconsin, is an Army Reservist assigned to the 1152nd Transportation Company from Milwaukee.

His unit is currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 458th Engineer Battalion. Tompkins chose

Lavnick from the crowd of Soldiers to be the first shopper. "I have been waiting for this new bazaar to open so I can buy some Iraqi souvenirs to send home," said Lavnick.

"The Liberty Bazaar is one of the most unique services contracts (that) AAFES has been able to establish in Iraq. (It is) truly, a win, win for all," Williams added.



**Saved — From Page 1A**

"All of a sudden, the back tires on the passenger side slid into the loose dirt on the side of the road and started to slide down the hill," he explained. "The truck started rolling and ended up in the canal with the wheels of the truck facing away from the road."

McClung was driving and stopped the vehicle after watching the truck roll three times into the canal. Driven by instinct and fueled by adrenaline, Kesner said he jumped out of the vehicle and ran to towards the overturned truck in the muddied water canal.

Recalling the situation, Kesner said he didn't realize what type of vehicle had fallen into the canal. He said his first thought was a septic waste truck.

"If you saw a (septic waste) truck roll into a nasty canal, would you jump in after that person?" Kesner asked. "I would honestly have to think about it. But at the time, it didn't even cross my mind. It wasn't until about mid-leap, after I had taken that first step to jump in, there was this voice in the back of

my head, 'You are not jumping in that water, are you?' At that point I had already committed."

"I ran as fast as I could over to the edge of the canal, crawled in and swam over to the vehicle," Kesner recalled. "I got over to the truck and I could see that it had started filling up with water and the guy inside was trying to open the door. Once he pulled the handle from the inside I pulled the door open and started pulling him out."

With the aid of 1st Sgt. Robert Voll, who also jumped into the canal, the man was pulled out of the vehicle.

While they were in the water, Kesner said he and the first sergeant set the driver on top of the partially submerged vehicle to check him for vital injuries.

"At that point we just made sure the guy was OK and wasn't bleeding from anywhere," Kesner said. "Then we helped him across the water, which is a lot deeper than it looks."

McClung, who waited on the bank of the canal, reached out and pulled the man safely ashore.

"By the time he got out of the canal there were medics on the scene," he said. "There was a colonel who is a doctor at the (troop medical) clinic from across the street.

He examined him and determined there was nothing wrong with him other than the fact he was a little dazed and a little shaken up."

Kesner, who was a medical first responder before joining the Army, said he does not consider himself a hero because of what he did. He said he reacted to this particular situation the way any good Soldier would.

"I consider anybody who is willing to put themselves in an uncomfortable situation to help somebody else a hero," he said.

"Hero is not a matter of character; hero is a matter of situation. When the situation arises it's your decision to go out and help someone or just drive by. I think we are all heroes because we are all Soldiers and I think any Soldier would have done the same thing. We were just doing what we should have done," he added.

**Cache — From page 1A**

works with the Stone platoon, said of finding the Frog-7b warheads.

By the second day of the operation, the Task Force was finding so many caches that they hired a local Iraqi with a bucket loader to help them dig for any other possible munitions

In nine hours, he had found nearly 700 cases of machine gun ammunition and over 150 spools of detonation cord. On the third day, an engineer group came out with some heavy equipment.

The finds continued.



**A Task Force 2-12 Cav. Soldier looks at a consolidation of some of the cache munitions.**



**Sgt. Samuel Jones stands by a cache of Frog-7b rockets.**

"I've got a feeling those guys will be involved with this for at least a few more weeks after we leave," Capt. Billy Meredith, commander, Task Force 2-12 Cav Company B, said.

"In addition to our taskings to help secure the area for the elections, this is our other big effort. (The operation) is denying the enemy's ability to influence the elections by denying them the capability to build IEDs and

to build (vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices) and things like that. I feel like we've made a sizeable dent," he added.

Such a dent that the Task Force's explosive ordnance disposal team ran out of C-4 explosives, used to destroy the caches, on the second day of the operation.

It's impressive to see the EOD team use a month's supply of C-4 in a matter of days, Wilbeck said.

**Prisoner — From Page 1A**

"Our job here is to rehabilitate detainees once they are released from Abu Ghraib or Bucha," said Raid Khutab Alqubory, a political advisor for the Iraqi National Gathering Party. "We give them a chance in three days to return to society with a new idea and to be able to look for a new future in their country."

Alqubory did the same kind of work when he lived in the United

States, and decided to bring some of those concepts back home to help his own people lead better lives.

"At first, we invited the detainees to come stay at our center," Alqubory said. "The commander of the military police of the 1st Infantry Division suggested that we go ahead and bring the detainees directly from prison to our center before they return to their families."

Alqubory said the program has proved very successful and none of

the people who have been through his program have experienced any trouble with the authorities.

"In the last five months, we have had over 600 detainees come through our program," Alqubory said. "We can say we are successful because out of that 600, none of them have returned to prison."

Alqubory feels him and his team are the best qualified to care for the released detainees because he best understands their cultural needs.

"All of the men are from the Sunni area, which is the most difficult area inside of our country. Our program is an important thing, because we understand about the society, we understand the people, what they need and we can support them," Alqubory said.

This type of program has never been tried before in Iraq, but Alqubory is determined that it will help his people.

"We started with a small idea, a

new idea and an idea that is the first like it in our country," Alqubory said. "We face many challenges. With the first one we started, we saw it was very successful."

With the success the program has enjoyed, the Coalition forces and the Iraqi government have decided to make the program a nationwide service, Alqubory said.

One of the main ingredients of the program's success is the ideas for rehabilitation come from the

people themselves, not those who run the program, Alqubory said.

"We have a three hour meeting with the men when they first get here," Alqubory said.

"We ask them what subjects they need help with, and how to change things. We ask them what they want to change in religion, politics or the economy. Because of that, the detainees make the program. That way they have nothing against the program," he explained.